Announcement in the Malayala Manorama re appointment of Mr. A. Venkata Rao as Head Sirkar Vakil.

124. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether their attention has been drawn to the following news published in the *Malayala Manorama* of the 25th June 1927/11th Mithunam 1102:—

കമ്പിവാർത്തകൾ.

(സ്വന്തം ലേഖകൻ.)

തിരുവനന്തപുരം,

൨൫-൬-൧൯൨൭.

നിയമനങ്ങൾ.

"ഹൈക്കോടതി ജഡ്ജിയായി നിയമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന മിസ്റ്റർ വി. എസ്. സുബ്രഹ്മണ്യയ്യർക്കു പകരം ഹെഡ് സർക്കാർ വക്കീലായി മിസ്റ്റർ എ. വെങ്കിട്ടറാവുവിനെ നിയമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു."

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether Mr. A. Venkata Rao was appointed Head Sirkar Vakil on the 25th June 1927;

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the negative, whether they have taken or propose to take any action against the paper or the 'സ്വന്തം ലേഖകൻ' under the Newspapers Regulation; and

(*d*) whether they will enquire and inform the House who this 'സ്വന്തം ലേഖകൻ' is?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The Government have perused the news para in question.

(*b*) Mr. Venkata Rao was appointed Ag. Head Sirkar Vakil by G. O. D. Dis. No. 1850/27/Judicial, dated the 13th July 1927.

(*c*) The Government do not consider it necessary to do so.

(*d*) The Government do not intend to do so.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the opinion of the legal department was taken in the matter?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Therefore, may I know whether this has not offended Section 5 of the Newspapers Regulation?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That would have been an offence if there had been habitual dissemination of falsehood.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know how the paper came to know of the appointment when the Government themselves had not ordered such appointment?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say. I do not know how the paper came to know of it.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Apparently, on the face of it, is it not a false report?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not a case of habitual dissemination of false report.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Was it not a false report?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, it was false at the time.

Revised Ryots' Roads Rules.

125. **MR. C. P. THOMAS** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) when the draft of the revised rules for ryots' roads were received by the Government from the Chief Engineer;

(*b*) why no orders have yet been passed thereon;

(*c*) how far the draft has been modified by the suggestions of non-official gentlemen on the subject; and

(*d*) whether an opportunity will be given to this Council to express its views on the draft rules before the Government finally adopt the rules?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) In September 1926.

(*b*) and (*c*) They are under scrutiny.

(*d*) The draft rules will be published in the *Gazette* for public criticism before they are finally passed.

Report of the Navigation Special Officer.

126. **MR. C. P. THOMAS** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) when the report of the Navigation Special Officer was submitted to them;

(*b*) the action taken on it; and

(*c*) whether any practical measure will be taken in hand in 1103 in respect of the Pamba and Manimala rivers as a result of the recommendations of the officer?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) In July 1926.

(*b*) Copies are being printed with a view to circulate the proposals in the report for the opinion of the Revenue and other departments.

(*c*) It is not possible to make any statement on the point now.

The Village Panchayat Regulation.

127. **MR. C. P. THOMAS** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) when the Village Panchayat Bill was passed by the Council;

(2) why it has not yet been brought into operation in any part of Travancore; and

(3) whether the Government have changed their opinion about the desirability of bringing the Regulation into operation?

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